

## History of the Koprivnica General Hospital

Luka Kovačević, Krešimir Švarc, Sanja Švarc-Janjanin  
*Andrija Štampar School of Public Health, Zagreb University School of Medicine, Zagreb; and  
Koprivnica General Hospital, Koprivnica, Croatia*

The history of health care in Koprivnica began four centuries ago, although Koprivnica settlement on the hill-sides of Bilogora in the Pannonian Plain had been founded much earlier. The first traces go back to the year 1345, when the foundation of St. Ana's Church and an adjoining hospital was recorded. The list of Zagreb Diocese parishes from 1501 included "rector hospitalis Nicolaus" in Koprivnica. In 1556, king Ferdinand I ordered his prefect in Koprivnica, Luka Sekelj, to give up usurping the land and revenues from the hospital. This implies that there was a kind of hospital in Koprivnica. Canon Ćegetek's parish review from 1742 states that the Koprivnica hospital had to be pulled down, unless repaired, but its location remains unknown. We know that the hospital was in fact pulled down in 1746, and that the new one was built.

One of the most prominent physicians working in Koprivnica was Niko Selak, who, in a relatively short period of three years, succeeded in turning a small provincial hospital into a good model hospital, one of the best organized in Croatia at that time.

In 1959, the Koprivnica General Hospital expanded with a new TB pavilion, later also used for Ophthalmology Service. A new modern hospital building was built in 1980, old buildings were renovated, and new up-to-date procedures were introduced in curative and preventive medicine. The Hospital had an important role at times of the wars in Croatia: during the World War I and II, the war prisoners and soldiers of different armies were treated there. During the 1991/92 war in Croatia, 293 wounded persons were treated at the Hospital.

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### Correspondence to:

Luka Kovačević  
Andrija Štampar School of Public Health  
Rockefellerova 4  
10000 Zagreb, Croatia